

## **Senate Joint Resolution No. 24**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 146**

Senate Joint Resolution No. 24—Relative to wildland fires.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 28, 1999.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SJR 24, Burton. Wildland fires: infrared line scan imaging technology.

This measure would memorialize the Congress of the United States to ensure that the infrared line scan thermal imaging technology developed by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection be deployed in the state by April 1, 2000.

WHEREAS, The State of California is blessed with vast natural resources located on federal, state, and private lands that are annually at risk to catastrophic loss from wildland fires; and

WHEREAS, California's weather, topography, and wildland vegetation produce one of the most volatile wildland fire environments in the world; and

WHEREAS, The wildland fire risk in California is extreme every year and huge losses occur annually as evidenced by the horrific fires of August 1999; and

WHEREAS, The protection of natural resources in California is a coordinated effort between federal and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, The need for accurate intelligence on wildland fires is critical to the success of control efforts and limiting the loss of life, property, and irreplaceable natural resources and a significant element of that intelligence can only be gained by adapting infrared thermal imaging technology for use on wildland fires; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which is the major state wildland fire protection agency, has, on its own, adapted infrared thermal imaging technology for use on wildland and forest fires and is capable of making that critical intelligence available within a few minutes to emergency wildland fire incident commanders on private, state, and federal lands; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense had participated in the infrared thermal imaging project by providing an aircraft for the infrared camera aviation platform; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense was forced to withdraw the aircraft to support another mission, leaving no aircraft available to carry the infrared thermal imaging cameras and equipment; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to take the actions necessary to ensure that the infrared line scan thermal imaging technology developed by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection be deployed for the protection of federal and state natural resources in California by April 1, 2000; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

